Joyce Powers

ELED 310

Webster Family Tree

My mom’s family is lucky to have a photo album of family pictures starting in mid-1850. It shows the faces of those that I heard about growing up. Though I was in first grade at the time, I remember visiting my great grandmother in CA and seeing the same worn blue velvet photo album on the coffee table. I remember hearing about both sets of great and great, great grandparents’ struggles in the New World.

My great grandfather Webster was born in Southampton, England and moved to the United States when he was five years old. His father just passed away and his mother wanted to see America, so she sold everything and brought tickets for her, all four children and her mother. The landed on Ellis Island and travelled by stagecoach all the way to California. She never remarried and made a living by taking in laundry and being a seamstress.

My great grandmother Beardsley family worked on the railroads in southern CA and then moved to San Jose, not sure what they did there. She met my grandfather; they were married and settled in Redding, CA. That is where my grandparents meet and got married in 1939. They moved to Atlanta, GA in the 1950s when my grandfather got a job with Lockheed Martin. My parents meet in 1963 and married in 1965.